

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 27 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-23, 25 and 27 are rejected. Claim 26 is indicated as being acceptable had the previous amendment been entered.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112

Claims 1, 12, 19 and 27 were rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph in the final office action as containing new matter.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102

Claims 19-23 have been rejected in the final office action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Comanor, US 5,860,917.

Claims rejections – 35 USC 103

Claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-18, and 25 were rejected in the final office action under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Staub and Seilhamer.

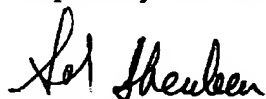
Claims 24 and 26 were objected to in the final office action as being dependent on rejected base claims. The Examiner noted that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claims and all intervening claims. The amendment provided as a response to the final office action was not entered on the grounds that it did not deal with all of the issues raised by the Examiner. In particular that claim 24 as amended still contained the alleged added subject matter of “statistical model”.

In the present response, claim 24 has been accordingly rewritten to remove the feature of "statistical".

All of the rejections raised by the Examiner are thus believed to have been overcome, either by the above amendments or by the above arguments.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are allowable over the cited reference. An early Notice of Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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